

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05
SSM-03 /100 W

-----096211 090753Z /17

R 090645Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3455
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0121

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ET, YS, UR, XF
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF STATE ON HORN DEVELOPMENTS

1. MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDUH SAID TOLD ME LAST NIGHT, JAN. 7, THAT HE HAS "RELIABLE INFORMATION" THAT IN LAST SEVERAL WEEKS PDRY HAS BEGUN TO SHIP MILITARY SUPPLIES TO EPLF FORCES NOW BESIEGING MASAWA. SAID SAID THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES CONSIDER THIS AN OMINOUS DEVELOPMENT BECUASE IT MAY PORTEND A SOVIET-INSPIRED AGREEMENT BETWEEN LEFTIST FORCES IN ERITREA AND THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO WHICH ETHIOPIA WILL AGREE TO INDEPENDENCE FOR ERITREA UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE EPLF TO BE FOLLOWED BY A CONFEDERATION BETWEEN A LEFTIST ERITREA AND ALEFTIST ETHIOPIA. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD THEN PERMIT ETHIOPIA TO TURN ITS ATTENTION TO THE OGADEN OTHERE ETHIOPIA'S OVERWHELMING POPULATION AS WELL
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AS UNLIMITED SOVIET ARMS SUPPLY WOULD PERMIT IT NOT ONLY TO SWEEP THE SOMALIS OUT OF THE REGION BUT TO GO ON TO TAKE DJIBOUTI.

2. SAID CONTINUED THAT IN THE WAKE OF SUCH A DEFEAT, SOMALIA WOULD THEN AGAIN SWING TO THE LEFT. ACCORDING TO SAID, THE END RESULT WILL BE A SERIES OF FOUR LEFTIST

STATES IN THE REGION, PDRY, ETHIOPIA,
SOMALIA, ERITREA, WHICH
WILL ALL BE AT THE BACK AND CALL OF THE SOVIET UNION. HE
OBSERVED THAT SUCH RESULT WOULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS
IN NORTH YEMEN.

3. SAID CONCLUDED THT WHILE HE HAS NO PROOF THAT SUCH
A PLAN IS IN THE OFFING, HE DID WANT TOBRING SUCH A
POSSIBILITY TO THE ATTENTION OF THE USG. HE OBSERVED
THAT WHILE THE ATTENTION OF THE US AND THE REST OF THE
ARAB WORLD IS UNDERSTANDBLY FOCUSED ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM,
THE SOVIET UNION IS ENGAGED IN A SERIOUS POWER PLAY ON
THE HORN. HE HOPED THAT THE USG WILL NOT BE SO DIVERTED
BY OTHER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT IT WILL LOSE SIGHT
OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RED SEA REGION AS A CRITICAL
FACTOR IN THE LONG-TERM STABILITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. I ASSURED ABDUH SAID THAT THE USG IS, OF COURSE,
DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN AND IS
MAKING SERIOUS EFFORTS TO SEE THAT THE PROBLEM IS
SOLVED PEACEFULLY. SAID EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE
PROBLEM COULD BE
SETTLED PEACEFULLY AND THAT THE
SOVIETS WOULD AGREE TO STOP SUPPORTING ETHIOPIA. HE
DID AGREE, HOWEVER, TO PASS ON ANY MORE
INFORMATION HE RECEIVES ON PDRY-SOVIET ACTIVITIES ON
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THE HORN.
SCOTES

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